

*Remarks of Cindy Davis
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**For the Education Committee
On Senate Bill 24
An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness**

February 21, 2012

My name is Cindy Davis and as a teacher in Connecticut, I would like to comment on Senate Bill 24. The proposed educational reforms will have very severe and negative consequences for teachers. These reforms measures feel punitive. A teacher has the responsibility of working many hours a day, both in the classroom and in the home. The proposal to determine salary from segmented observations or test scores does not present a whole picture of the whole teacher.

The proposed reform to allow teachers to enter the Connecticut public school system without a measured level of competency is contrary to a requirement that I had to complete to earn my certification. I was required to complete the Praxis, but the current reform proposal eliminates this requirement. Isn't that lowering the standards?

In other countries, teachers are valued and respected for their commitment to their work, yet the shift in attitude toward teachers has resulted in an accountability attitude that teachers are solely responsible for student achievement on standardized tests. The student's achievement will then be a criterion for salary without regard for the other factors influencing student performance, achievement, and productivity.

I truly urge the members of the state legislature to be sensitive to the numerous conditions within a school that determine growth and performance. Teachers are a conduit to learning. The need for change and reform requires a realistic perspective of all sides. As a teacher, I do not believe the proposed reforms have examined all components. These reforms feel punitive towards teachers.

The need for change needs to be based on sound reasoning. These reforms are not based on sound reasoning.